



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 1, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

**SAN CARLOS MOTHER FOUND GUILTY OF MURDERING
HER THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER**

PHOENIX – Sharon Jane Dosela, 39, of San Carlos, Ariz., was found guilty here by a federal jury this afternoon of First Degree Felony Murder, Second Degree Murder, Aggravated Sexual Abuse with a Minor, Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon for the death of her three-year-old daughter who was pronounced dead on November 3, 2003, on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

At trial, the government showed that Dosela had beaten the victim numerous times with a wooden paddle during the week before her death. Many of these blows were to the victim's head and back and the victim suffered two seizures in the days before being reported dead. The girl had also been sexually abused with a hair brush. Medical testimony indicated that the victim most likely lingered for up to two days without medical care after having suffered brain injuries. She had likely been dead for several hours before her death was reported to police or medical personnel. The facts at trial also showed that the three-year-old girl had been returned to the custody of her mother from foster care by order of the tribal court approximately six weeks before her death. In finding felony murder, the jury made specific findings that the murder resulted from child abuse and a pattern or practice of assault and torture against a child.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated that "I applaud the jury for this difficult but important task of bringing this individual to justice."

The case was tried before U.S. District Court Judge Neil V. Wake from August 23 through September 1, 2005. A conviction for First Degree Murder carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison. The other counts carry a maximum sentence of between ten years and life in prison. Dosela remains in federal custody and is set for sentencing before Judge Wake on November 14, 2005 at 11:00 a.m.

Larry Kent Walker, Sr., Dosela's boy friend, was living with Dosela at the time. Walker was convicted by a jury on July 18, 2005 of First Degree Felony Murder, Second Degree Murder, Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon for the same murder. These cases are two of the first to be prosecuted under the Protect Act.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs with assistance from the FBI. The prosecution is being handled by Ann Scheel and Michael Morrissey, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-01234-PHX-DGC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-154

###